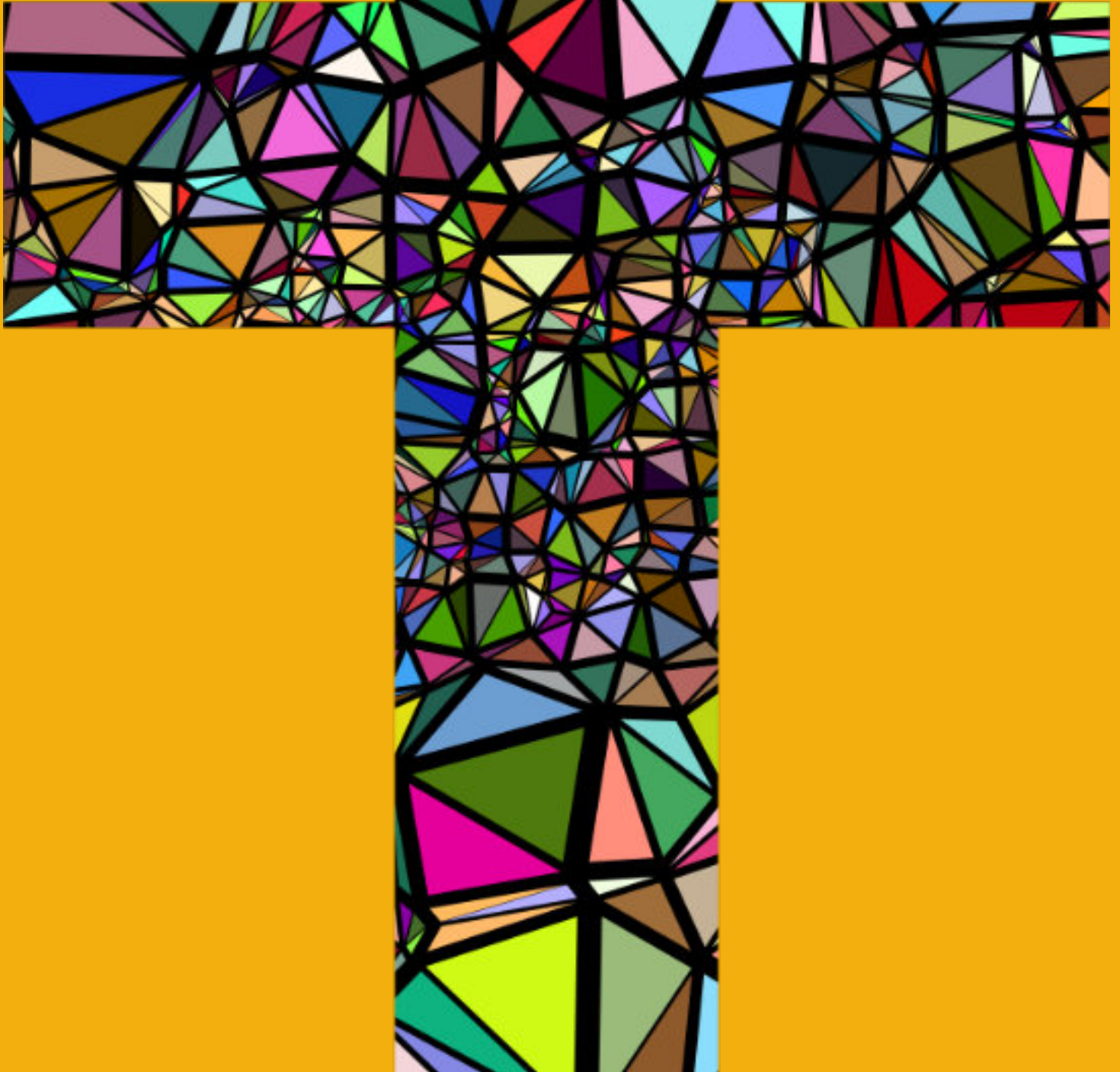


# Pivot



The Magazine of

Broadstone Methodist Church



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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to this Spring Edition of Pivot!

We invite you to look at the past and to the future within a wide range of contributions. Rev Karen leads us into reflections on Easter starting with childhood memories of 'Boggle'! Rev Sarah introduces herself and shares her future aspirations for her ministry. Ray Cornick shows us how talking with one another can strengthen our faith and understanding of difficult concepts such as the resurrection.

Anna Rigby shares her 25 years with Broadstone Methodist Church with happy memories of family involvement and the many activities she has been involved in over the years. We hear from the Spencer family who have recently moved away from Broadstone. We report on longstanding girl guide and church member, Sheila La Riviere, rejoining the Girl Guides for a day!

Looking to the wider community we celebrate Alison Kay's recent award of the British Empire Medal for her services to music. The Chair of Broadstone's Neighbourhood Forum, Jonathan Saunders, shares the Forum's vision for improving the area outside the M&S Foodhall and invites comments and further suggestions.

Mike Brooke shares the latest news on Broadstone Methodist Church's Silver Eco Church Award and our work on Creation Care.

Reports on a wide variety of activities show that Broadstone Methodist Church is certainly a hub for its members and the wider community.

A big thank you to everybody for their contributions. We hope you enjoy reading them.

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# Idle talk ...or is it?

Rev Karen James



I love wordsearches; one of my favourite games as a child was 'Boggle' (look it up!), it had words, it was competitive, and most times I would win – what was not to like? But mostly I love how words can be arranged to tell wonderful, insightful stories or convey information. I am doing that right now in this article, inviting you to share some of my ideas and thoughts in an accessible way (I hope).

Words have power; they can encourage and support, they can also bring destruction. They can

We pay more attention to certain voices because of their perceived status, though we do not always give proper heed to the words they use.

This time of Easter and the period leading up to it known as Lent has its own terminology – repentance, wilderness, temptation, death and resurrection, new life, hope. At this time of year these ideas (words) can be seen all around us as we move from winter to spring, with flowers and buds emerging from the seemingly bare land and branches, the longer spells of sunshine that bring a positive feel to the world around us and within us. We use these to help 'picture' and explore the deeper meanings.

And it was with words that the women, who had followed Jesus from Galilee all the way to the tomb where Jesus had been placed, tried to convince the apostles that Jesus had risen – just as Jesus had told them all. How do you try to explain such an incredible turn of events, the stone rolled away, only the grave clothes present until two men in dazzling clothes gently chided them – why are you looking for the living amongst the dead?

It is unsurprising that the apostles did not believe them, calling it idle or nonsense talk. And yet, something in the words that Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary mother of James and others shared, seemed to resonate with Peter. He did act. He went to the tomb and stooped down and looked in, and went home, amazed.

It is remarkable that such an event would first be shared by women, a group whose voice and words could be easily dismissed – nonsense, idle talk and yet even their words had an impact – small at first but enough to convince one person to go and see for themselves. And over two thousand years later we are listening to these words for ourselves, what impact will they have on us?

In a world where we have so many words, and so many dominating voices demanding our attention it is good to recall that sometimes the seemingly idle talk – the easily dismissed words and voices – are important too.

Easter blessings to you all

*Rev Karen*



incite people into action, and they can create barriers. Words can be used to welcome as well as dismiss. They can be thought-provoking, playful, directing, and inspiring.

The manner in which words are expressed, and who they are being expressed by, can also determine the impact that they have, whether for good or ill.



# Who Am I?

Rev Sarah Knebel



Hello.

My name is Rev Sarah Knebel. I am a Methodist Minister and I moved to the Poole Bay Circuit in September of last year. Currently, my role here is focussed mainly at Poole Methodists, but I also enjoy preaching around the circuit, am beginning to get to know some faces in the other churches and am a trained supervisor, working with other ministers and lay-workers in the district.

I was born in London, but grew up on the edge of the Mendip hills, where I lived for most of my life until I moved with my young family to Birmingham eight years ago to train to become a Methodist Minister at Queens Theological College alongside Rev. Karen James. I have also lived in Leeds for three years as a university student and in Germany for a year in my early twenties, where I worked for an insurance company. Prior to moving to Birmingham I worked as a Pastoral Worker for the Methodist Church in Keynsham, near Bristol, and before that I was a Commercial Manager for a small digital print company near Bath.

I have been married to my husband, Rob, for fifteen years this year and we have two children, Keira and Clara, aged twelve and ten respectively. As a family we enjoy walking, swimming, cycling and camping. Keira, Clara and Rob also train in the art of kick-boxing, and Keira and Clara both enjoy gymnastics. When I am not working I can happily lose a few hours curled up with a good book, whilst



listening to music or sat in a tranquil setting in the countryside (if the British weather is kind enough!).

I became a Christian in my late teens, though I remember going to church briefly as a child. Inspired by Methodism's deep concern for social justice, I started attending the local Methodist church, where I later became a Local Preacher. Whilst completing my Local Preacher training, I sensed a call to ordained ministry, which I tested for a number of years before finally candidating in May 2016. It was with great relief and much excitement that I was accepted for training from September 2017 on a two year full-time course. In September 2019, I was stationed as a Probationer Minister to the Farnworth and Worsley Circuit on the north-west edge of Manchester, where I completed my training and was ordained. During the first five years of my ministry we pulled down a church building that was cold and beyond repair and built a new church with all the modern features needed to meet the needs of the community around it (a process that had begun prior to my arrival). We also worked alongside the local housing association and the RHS to build up the work of the community garden attached to the church. At the same time, I worked closely with another church to build upon its mission in the local community and with the local Methodist school.

Within ministry, I am passionate about the importance of inclusivity, see working ecumenically and with the local community as vital to the future of the church, and proactively seek to empower our young people, who, I believe, are not only essential for the flourishing of the church today but also key to its future.

If you would like to know more, please do stop me for a chat.

Every blessing

*Rev Sarah*



## Christian Aid Week 11 – 17 May 2025

This year is Christian Aid's 80th Anniversary, it was founded at the end of the Second World War. For eight decades Christian Aid has played an important role in fighting poverty and injustice.

This year Christian Aid Week focuses on Guatemala, a country dealing with immense challenges:

*More than half of the population work in agriculture, yet Guatemala is a hunger hotspot*

*Guatemala has one of the highest rates globally of stunted development in children*

*Guatemala is one of 10 countries in the world rated most vulnerable to climate emergencies*

The climate crisis is causing both dry and rainy seasons that would once arrive with predictability to intensify and shift erratically. As

a result, vital crops are failing, plunging farming families into hunger and poverty.

Christian Aid works with local partners to help farmers adapt their farming to the changing climate, for example, to grow climate resilient crops, produce fertiliser and build rainwater collection systems.

You can support Christian Aid week at Broadstone Methodist Church by attending our Christian Aid Service on Sunday 11 May at 10.30am, donating via the envelope collection or collecting boxes that day and during the week, and through prayer. There will be special prayer resources available.

With sudden cutbacks in aid from the USA and UK Governments there is a greater need than ever for individual donations. You can donate at any time to Christian Aid on-line at <https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/A002958>





# Rambling Through a Spring of Doubts to an Easter Faith and Resurrection

Ray Cornick

Julie was a middle-aged woman who went to church fairly regularly but had come to wonder why. She loved all aspects of nature and believed in God as creator, but Lent and Easter left her wondering in this space age. On this early spring morning she set out for a walk. The sun was shining, the birds were singing, flowers were coming in her garden and there was an air of hope after the long winter.

'Lovely day,' remarked a neighbour, 'Makes you glad to be alive!' 'But am I good enough in this world of poverty and warfare?' thought Julie. As she rounded a corner, she caught sight

of the church, and her doubts came flooding back. She made to cross the road, but something stopped her, and she decided to go in for coffee. As she entered, she was aware of a sense of warmth and welcome.

Lent had just begun and someone was quietly playing the piano in the sanctuary. A friend, a local preacher, spoke to her, saying, 'This is what I call a creation day. God is alive and active in the world.' 'So much for my gloomy thoughts' mused Julie. 'I find creation shows us God as each year spring comes round, just as the dead looking bulbs and buds send out shoots and then flowers.' added her friend.

Julie sat still, sipping her coffee. 'I'm so gloomy' remarked Julie 'I just want to curl up and soak up the sunshine.' Her friend asked for the cause of her gloom, aware that she had lost her husband some three years ago and was now trying to sell the family home. Julie fought back a tear and said, 'I just want to believe like I used to, but I find it all so hard, this Lent and Easter business. The Cross and resurrection seem too much to take in.'

'I hear what you say,' smiled her friend. 'I have this difficulty every year, but usually prayer, or rather attempts at prayer, settle the issue, and Sunday worship is a great help as we travel through Lent. It's what the ancient saints knew as the dark night of the soul. It's worth remembering that someone has said that doubts are the building blocks of faith. We all go through it sometime or other and you have enough on your plate as it is. Julie groaned. 'I don't like the sound of all that at the moment' and felt her eyes welling up with tears. 'I've always come to church but now I'm not sure why'.

Their coffee cups were drained and her friend said 'Listen, it's going to be fine all day, let's go for that walk of yours together and maybe we can talk some more or just natter about things!' They walked off and soon realised that they were





heading for the park. It was a beautiful park with a large lake and an abundance of early spring flowers coming into bloom. They walked over to the lake where a swan was sitting on its nest, guarded by the cob who hissed at the two intruders. 'They're early' whispered Julie, 'I suppose it's all to do with climate change. Isn't creation wonderful. To think that God made all of this and gave us senses to appreciate it.' Her friend put an arm around her and gave her a hug. 'That's better. He also created grace and resurrection for us. Jesus was God incarnate and suffered and died for our sake, but God had more to give, he brought about Jesus' resurrection, for our sakes after the Cross. Just take a bit of that on board plus the wonderful things we have seen and pray about it for a few minutes each day. Now let's go and watch the children on the miniature railway'.

'But what is resurrection?' queried Julie. 'It is God's answer to death and destruction, sin and grief. It is new life in the Spirit. It is a shedding of old dead thoughts. It is God's answer to warfare and hatred' her friend explained. This struck a chord with Julie who asked if she might come to the Wednesday's study group her friend ran. 'I think you would find the group helpful', she replied. This indeed turned out to be the case, and the cut and thrust of friendly discussion proved invaluable to Julie.

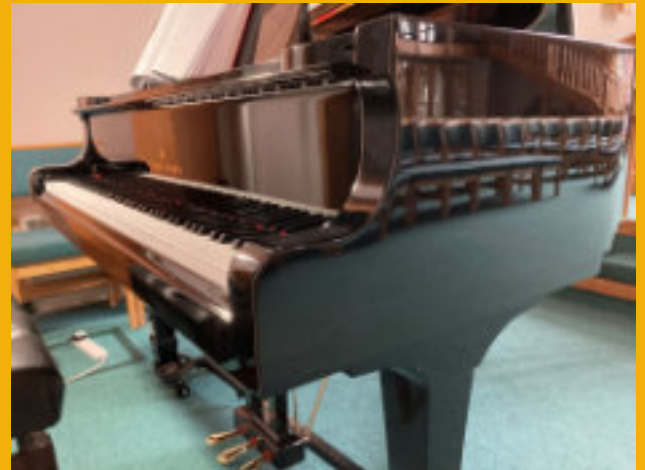
Lent passed by and the solemn time was brought to a close as the minister declared, 'Christ is risen, Alleluia', to which the people replied, 'He is risen indeed, Alleluia.' Julie found herself joining in. Resurrection had come alive for her as she sensed Jesus calling her name in the gardens, as Mary had done in the resurrection garden. So Julie had heard him in her heart of hearts and replied 'Raboni, Master!'

*Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who believe and yet have not seen'.*

# The Happy (hopefully!) Story of our New Grand Piano

David Spracklen

Following the disastrous news last October that our old grand piano was on the point of disintegrating, I looked at a number of alternative options for replacing it. Some of those came to nothing, but thanks to the help and advice of a number of people, we now have a new (to us) grand piano in the sanctuary.



It is a Young Chang piano, about 25 years old, made in South Korea. The Chris Venables piano company in Ringwood supplied it, and it was previously owned by a musician. Will Venables has done an excellent job of upgrading it, so that it now looks and sounds like new. The cost was £4,500 (which included the removal of our old piano), of which nearly £3,000 was donated. It comes with a 5 year warranty, and should be ideal for the relatively limited use that we give it at Broadstone.

The other good news about it is that it is almost identical in size to the old one, so that Mary Blacker's lovingly-made piano cover fits perfectly. In fact, I guess that some of you may not have even noticed that the piano beneath the cover has changed!

On behalf of the church, I'd like to express my grateful thanks to those many people who gave me advice (I'm no expert on the intricate workings of a piano!) and to those who made generous donations towards its cost.



# Bailey's African Adventure

Many of you will remember Bailey, Audrey's and Derek's grandson, as he progressed through our Junior Church in recent years. He's now studying for his A levels at Lytchett Minster School.

With a group of friends from the School, Bailey is planning to embark on a trip to Kenya for 9 days this summer with a charitable organisation, African Adventures, whose aims are to help schools in deprived countries in Africa, by renovating and rebuilding dilapidated classrooms, and by providing classroom teaching of English and sports.

The team from Lytchett Minster will be working on a project at Mercy Njeri Primary School, in Nakuru, Kenya's fourth largest city. The school educates about 600 children between the ages of 4 and 16. While this is a government-run school, it is severely underfunded, and lacks many basic facilities and equipment. The main aims for the project are to renovate existing classrooms, to build a new toilet block and to renovate existing toilets, as well as to help in teaching.



Every member of the team is involved in fund-raising as they have been asked to raise a minimum of £2,700. Out of that will come the cost of their flights, food and accommodation, but most of the money raised will be used to provide resources for the school in Nakuru.

Some of you have already made donations towards Bailey's expenses at our recent church lunch. If you didn't, Bailey would greatly appreciate any support that you can give. To make a donation, please contact his grandparents, Audrey and Derek Hugill, or ask one of the stewards to put you in touch with them.





# Reconnecting with Good Memories



*89-year-old Sheila La Riviere, who has been a faithful and committed member of Broadstone Methodist Church for more than 40 years, and who is now a resident at The Potteries Care Home in Poole, has rejoined the Girl Guides, reigniting her lifelong passion for the organisation.*

With the support of her care home team and her daughter Cathy, Sheila's wish to once again don the familiar uniform and reconnect with her Girl Guide roots was brought to life.

Sheila's journey with the Girl Guides stretches back to the years just after World War II when she first joined as a Brownie. By age 11, in 1946, she had moved on to the Kenton Girl Guides, following in the footsteps of her mother, who had become a Guide back in 1912.

Guiding was more than a pastime for Sheila—it was a family tradition, one that she passed down to her daughter Cathy, who also became a member.

Over the years, Sheila found joy in the simple yet meaningful traditions of the Guides. She loved preparing food and singing with friends around the campfire. Her dedication to the organisation didn't stop when she left the Guides; she went on to volunteer as both a district and division commissioner, ultimately dedicating 20 years of service.

This outstanding commitment earned her the Dorset Gentian award, a prestigious recognition for her long-standing contributions.

In a special ceremony organised by the care home staff, Sheila was given the opportunity to relive her Guiding days by joining the Broadstone Girl Guides and her daughter on an adventurous crabbing trip to Poole Quay.

Dressed once again in her beloved uniform, Sheila's day was filled with laughter, nostalgia, and a deep connection to the organisation that has played such an important role in her life.

## Community Coffee Lounge



Broadstone Methodist Church is pleased to welcome you to its community Coffee Lounge, open from 10am to 12noon, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

It has been so well supported recently we have needed to purchase new coffee machines and a new dishwasher!

The coffee is good!



# 25 years at Broadstone Methodist Church

Anna Rigby



This year is a celebratory one for me, as it marks 25 years of my time here at Broadstone Methodist Church. So much has happened during this time, and I am surprised how quickly this time has gone.

My journey here at Broadstone Methodist Church began in April of 2000 at my christening, taken by the late Rev Paul Mears. Since then, my journey with the church has changed me and has helped me become the young woman I am now.

Many members of the church have seen how much I have grown from being part of junior church for most of my childhood to contributing to a variety of events which the church provides. During this time, I have seen and received worship from a variety of ministers from Rev Paul Mears, Rev Robert McBain, Rev Chris Moreton, Rev Sue Gowling, Rev Elizabeth Rundle and Rev Karen James along with many more from the Poole Bay Circuit. Their services of worship have taught me how to pray, receive communion and love God but it has also helped my knowledge of the Bible scriptures and have strengthened my faith in many ways.

I have many memories associated with Broadstone Methodist Church, but my personal

favourites are telling Rev Chris Moreton, 'OK, Chris, what's this book all about then?' When it was in fact the Bible on the table in the sanctuary. Another favourite memory was performing a dance routine for the morning Junior Church and Carol Service during Christmas time to 'O Holy Night' with my sister Katie, which was organised/arranged by the late Karen Greene. Finally, a memory which will always be special to me and my sister Katie is around Christmas time when we would help our grandparents, Bob and Margaret Flute, on Christmas Eve when they were on door duty handing out sweets to those who came to the service. There are so many memories which brought joy and laughter over the past 25 years and will be forever cherished.

While Broadstone Methodist Church has given me so many happy memories, the church has given me time and space to mourn and reflect. My parents and sister will always be known and seen at Broadstone Methodist Church whether it is my dad Dave Rigby on AV, my mum Isabel Rigby in the worship band on piano or singing in the Choral Group and my sister Katie Rigby when she is home during school holidays. However my

Rev Paul Mears baptising Anna



The Christening Party







Rev Chris Morton with Anna



The Rigby Musicians

grandparents Norman and Mary Rigby and Bob and Margaret Flute will always be remembered. Many will remember them for their contribution for the church, Nan Flute (Margaret) helping arrange the flowers in the sanctuary, Grandad Rigby (Norman) for being a steward before the new church was built, Nan Rigby (Mary) being on reception door duty during the week, and Grandad Flute (Bob) organising social events for the church, such as the boat trips and many more.

There are so many reasons why Broadstone Methodist Church has been a warm and welcoming church to so many who have come and gone over the years. It is incredible to see how far the church has come with introducing many things not just for us church goers but for the wider community as well, such as: Messy Church, Thirsty Thursday, Cafe Church, Knit and Natter, Stepping Stones, Coffee mornings, Badminton group and so much more.

My contribution towards helping at Broadstone Methodist Church has always been a delight. Many will remember my musical skills in the Worship Band playing my recorder or singing if a hymn was

difficult to play on the recorder. I would also sing in the Choral Group and gave my services to help with Messy Church during the school holidays. Contributing has been fun and enjoyable, and my faith will always be doing my best to serve God and his son Jesus Christ.

The church has held many events on the premises throughout the years and I think it is amazing that the wider community in Broadstone are using the facilities that the church provides. For example, the exercise classes throughout the week, art classes, Wendy House and many more. For me, the special events which the church played host for are my grandparents 55th and 60th Wedding Anniversary in 2011 and 2014 and my grandad Flute's funeral in 2013.

As I reflect on these past 25 years at Broadstone Methodist Church, I will never forget how much the church has taught me in faith, loving my neighbour and having fun. Nowadays you will find me in the coffee lounge during the week enjoying company of people who love to laugh, smile and have a good natter. Here is to the next 25 years.

A joyful Easter to you all!

*Right*  
Bob and Margaret Flute's  
55th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

*Below*  
Norman and Mary Rigby's  
60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration



# Greetings from Shropshire

Tim and Jackie Spencer

*As most readers will remember, Tim and Jackie Spencer and their children, Kez and Toby, worshipped with us at Broadstone for many years. In 2023, Toby moved to Shropshire to attend a special college particularly suited to his needs, where he settled well. As a result, the rest of the family decided to relocate to Shropshire last year, so that they could be closer to Toby. They have sent us an interesting account of their first months in their new environment.*

Dear Friends,

It is now over nine months since we left our house in Colehill for the last time and drove the 215 miles to our rented house in Prees near Whitchurch, Shropshire.

We looked round for a church and settled on the Beacon Church in Whitchurch. Beacon is part of the Christ Central group, and we quickly settled into the church with a regular midweek house group.

Being this far north has given Tim the chance to re-connect with old friends, some of whom he met at Sheffield Polytechnic. He has also volunteered for the Llangollen Railway, which is about an hour's drive from here. He is happily operating a signal box and crossing at Glyndyfrdwy (as Jackie's great grandfather did in Fordingbridge all his life for a job).

Having sold our house in Wimborne, we now had the task of finding one to buy and after a couple of false dawns we found one in the small town of Wem about a mile from where Toby lives. This works well as Toby can now keep a close eye on us. This means that we now see a lot more of each other than when Toby first got here and the rest of us were still in Dorset. We can take Toby out on a Saturday, but also visit him at home after college in the evening. He has also been able to join us on a Sunday morning for church and at our new house. Having a more modern house, we have wheelchair accessible wide doors which is much better. We also now



have a hoist for Toby so we can move him from his chair.

Having our own house again means we can actually unpack, after what feels like far too long, a lot of our things have been in boxes waiting for the next house move or the one after that. We made the huge mistake of moving just before Christmas. A tip you may find useful: if you're ever thinking of moving house – don't do it at Christmas time. Christmas is stressful enough even when you're not moving!

The other big news is that Kez has passed her driving test. She is justifiably proud of this (as we are) especially as she passed first time, unlike either of her parents! She even has her own car, which was left to her by her late Gran. A Nissan Micra, one careful old lady owner. If you are interested, her driving test is now on YouTube, just search for *Watch How Kez Passes Her Driving Test In Shrewsbury (Bill Hancock Driving)*. She has told Bill that she's Kez.



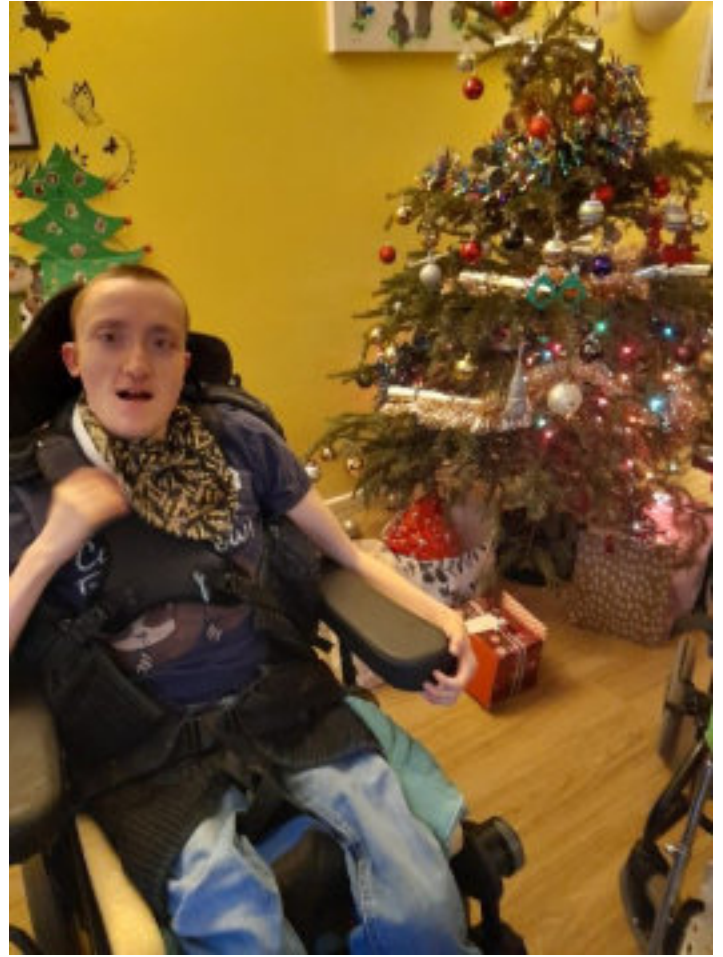
When Tim was growing up, his grandparents lived here in Wem. He remembers lying in bed at night, hearing trains passing through about half a mile away. Our new house wasn't built then but is even closer to the railway so now we all hear the trains. Toby, on the other side of town, can also hear the trains at night.

The countryside up here is very green, lots of farms, tractors and trees. There's noticeably less traffic on the road than in our part of Dorset. To the south of us are the Shropshire hills, to the west the Welsh hills, and Chester, Liverpool and Manchester are all within a comfortable day trip. We also have canals and more railways with stations and trains. Wem itself has a station which will be great for Toby when it gets warmer.

Here in the Midlands we are noticeably much colder than in Dorset, however the large amount of snow in Prees last year did mean Tim and Jackie built the biggest snowman in the road.



Talking of driving again, Jackie has crashed our Motability car, now a write off. Thankfully no one was hurt and the man in the Audi was very understanding. So there she was, partially obstructing the A5 in Shrewsbury with no clear idea of where she was. Thankfully the police arrived and were able to sort out the situation with the traffic, breathalyse the two drivers (both clear) and give them a ride in a police car to the nearest coffee shop while the police cleared the cars from the road. As it was Motability, they were very understanding, and are happy to replace Toby's car and give us a courtesy car in the meantime. Again, this happened just after we had moved in, days before Christmas. Rather a stressful period! Jackie is also finding more time for crochet, which is ideal as it's creative, and a way more low risk environment compared with



driving with her sense of direction in an unknown area!

Overall, we are settling in our new home and adjusting to our new life, finding new things to do and new places to explore. We are of course still regularly visiting Dorset, as Jackie's family are there.

We hope you have found the update interesting, and enjoy the photos.

## Heating System

The current Broadstone Methodist Church building is now over 20 years old and we hope readers agree it is in excellent condition.



However, the heating system is also over 20 years old and whilst the boiler room may look impressive we are beginning to experience a number of problems.

Volunteers have organised repair and maintenance work as quickly as possible but some long term planning is needed.

A small group is being set up to put together a 3 year plan. We hope to learn a little from Broadstone URC which has already been investigating heat pump systems.

# Alison J Kay BEM GTCL MPerf

Nicki Dixon



*Broadstone resident honoured for her services to music and young musicians in our area. Alison Kay has been awarded a British Empire Medal. Her long-standing friend and fellow musician, Nicki Dixon, describes Alison's 'journey' below.*

The story begins when I met Alison (Ali to her friends) at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (GSMD) in the late 1980s. We often performed in the same college orchestras where we forged our orchestral skills and experience of live concerts, musicals and operas either on the Barbican Centre stage, the School's concert hall or opera pit. The GSMD was a thriving hub for musicians, singers and actors counting the likes of the opera star Bryn Terfel (in our year!) Tasmin Little the violinist and actor Daniel Craig amongst its alumni.

Upon graduating, our study at GSMD paved the way for us both securing much prized positions in the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO); Ali No4 Sub Principal viola and I was the same position in the double bass section.

The BSO was the ideal environment to learn the vast orchestral repertoire and make new

friends. Back then touring with the orchestra was a regular feature putting Bournemouth firmly on European and American audiences' maps.

Many players who joined from the late 80s and early 90s remain in the orchestra to this day and made Dorset their home to bring up their families and enjoy everything that the area has to offer.

The musical landscape of the country then was very different to today. There were more opportunities at school such as free musical instrument tuition and performing opportunities in local youth orchestras. Timetabled music lessons used to feature throughout our parallel school careers whether you went on to study it for a GCE O level (GCSE today) or not.

So as Alison settled into BSO life and also forged her instrumental teaching career in local schools she began to notice that music education was changing with fewer opportunities for children to take part in ensembles together or simply have music on their timetable. The free instrumental tuition we had both enjoyed in our respective schools faded out, meaning fewer children taking up an instrument.







With Alison's passion and determination she saw this gap and decided to do something about it!

So around 1998 Ali left her BSO employment to dedicate herself to this cause alongside her paid teaching commitments and bringing up her own children. She created the Broadstone Music Series which ultimately operated under the umbrella title of Poole Society for Young Musicians (PSYM), becoming a registered charity in March 2017. No doubt you'll be familiar with their musical activities in the locality.

PSYM's aims are to be a fully inclusive charitable 'music service', where no child is turned away if they wish to participate whatever their age, background, ability or financial need. PSYM provides numerous ensemble opportunities from small trios, matching children in friendship groups, to an inclusive larger Camerata ensemble.

The children are coached regularly by professional local instrumentalists; many being drawn from the BSO. Performing opportunities are termly; the annual highlight is a summer school.

As readers of this magazine you may already know that in the spirit of keeping the PSYM in the local spotlight they rotate their concerts at the various churches in the Broadstone locality to extend the reach of the audience and to maintain a local presence.

One of PSYM's other aims is to engage either professional or undergraduate musicians to undertake workshops with some of the more established young players under its umbrella and also to showcase their work as emerging artists.

The Broadstone Music Series also has an affiliation with the Royal Academy of Music from where many of these emerging artists and ensembles are drawn. Other established professional musicians also give master classes and some of the more established ensembles

from PSYM have had the opportunity to go to Europe to perform in youth festivals.

Alison has to constantly think about funding the charity and much of its work is supported by Soundstorm Music Hub, The Frost Trust and Richard Ely Trust.

So as you can see this has been a life's work for Alison and without her leadership, fundraising skills, persuasion, dedication and passion, none of this would exist and to quote one interviewee "this charity has been fundamentally life changing".

My own career path also changed back in the late 1990s when I also left the BSO and today, whilst still playing the double bass I have also become a Governor of the charity The Royal Society of Musicians (RSM); Alison and I are both members of the RSM.

The RSM is a charity which supports professional musicians who cannot work due to accident, injury or ill health and it was at a monthly trustee meeting that, as a stakeholder group, we were invited to nominate a fellow musician for a national honour. Aware of Alison's dedication and passion I put forward her name and the all of the other Governors and staff unanimously agreed we should submit her name for consideration for an award.

So I was tasked with filling out the form and writing a compelling submission outlining much of the above and then asking others to write a citation of their experience of PSYM in support of the nomination.

We were all delighted when Alison's name appeared on the New Year Honours list when it was announced last December and even though Alison had been informed early December and accepted the honour, it was fantastic to share the news with everybody and celebrate the achievements of PSYM on behalf of Alison and all of the Trustees.

# Broadstone Community Area by M&S (Wallace Square?)

Jonathan Saunders

Chair, Broadstone Neighbourhood Forum

The origins of this project hark back to those dreaded Covid days when people had to stay at home and the Broadway was deserted. When we were 'released' the Broadstone Neighbourhood Forum started to look at the Broadway and how we could encourage people to come back to shop and, ideally, spend some time and money with our traders on our high street.

We did a 'walk around' with one of our then Councillors and officers from the Council and had a good hard look at the Broadway and straight away started to see how it could be improved. We started a look at the north end by

the roundabout and had ambition to remove the planters and create a continuous paved area with smaller planters and seating for people.

The Forum had been awarded some money from Central Government to be spent on the Broadway and we went through various design iterations for that area and ended up with a costing upwards of £75,000 which far exceeded the budget we had so those plans had to be shelved and we turned our attention to the southern end, near Marks and Spencer.

When we looked at that area we recognised that the planters were a little broken and untidy

## Broadstone High Street ~

### Proposed Improvements to the space under the Monkey Puzzle Tree





**Key**

- 1 Existing benches to be refurbished
- 2 Proposed seating area
- 3 Area replanted with low growing, wildlife friendly flowers and shrubs
- 4 New location of Broadstone information panels
- 5 Existing bollards replaced to match benches
- 6 Repairs to paving and girth surrounding tree
- 7 New bench
- 8 Proposed cycle stands
- 9 Planting added including small tree
- 10 Central space maintained open for access to shops and community events

Proposed style of Furniture



Typical character of Planting







and the plants in them had seen better days. The two seats that were available were not as clean as they could be, there were ugly concrete bollards bounding the pavement and, all in all, it wasn't a very attractive place to be, let alone 'rest a while'.

We looked at what we would want to achieve and decided we would aim to :

- To create a village 'hub' outside M&S area
- Add seating
- Clean and paint the brickwork
- Replant the planters

We have gone through various design iterations, spoken to people at the Fun Day and the AGM and shared what we were thinking about doing in the Link magazine and in our Facebook Group. Details are also on the Forum's web site – take a look (Making a Difference to Broadstone/Plans for Developments to the Broadway).

Planning permission has now been sought and we hope it may soon be approved after which we will need to source the material and benches and arrange for the work to be done. Procurement will take approximately 2 to 4 weeks and depending on whether there are any planning complications this may take until late Spring. Constructing the furniture, after ordering, may take us into early Summer.

We are able to use Council workers to do the structural changes but this needs to be fitted into their schedule so it is likely that this will be after ordering of the materials, so if we miss the spring planting season our Broadstone in Bloom volunteers will do the planting in the autumn.

This is longer than we would have wished but it is important to get things right. When we are able to complete the work, even if delayed, we hope that people will enjoy the area and be able to sit and chat. There may even be a chance for pop up activities from visiting attractions.

## Stepping Stones

Annette Brooke

Stepping Stones meets every second Friday in the month, 2.30pm to 4pm, in the Coffee Lounge at Broadstone Methodist Church. It is suitable for people with memory loss, their carers, and for older people living by themselves. Newcomers are welcome.

We start each session with tea, cakes and chat. We then offer a range of activities. In January, attendees could choose carpet bowls, quizzes, adult colouring, dominoes and other games, or just to sit and chat. In February, the choice of activities included simple flower arranging alongside the other options. We tried hard to imagine that spring was on its way with small

bouquets of daffodils and greenery for everybody to take home. In March, we had a special guest, Curly the Busker, who leads a really good singing session with songs from the past – do you remember Lonnie Donegan? In April we will definitely be offering the 'favourite' activity of carpet bowls alongside some Easter crafts.

We are grateful to the Methodist Church for hosting us, we are blessed with a large number of volunteers and also thank people and groups for donations.

Stepping Stones has been operating since 2016 and we have recently formed a Steering Group to ensure that the group continues.



# Our Eco-Church Journey – so far

Mike Brooke

Since joining the eco-church scheme run by the Christian environmental charity A Rocha, we have progressed through the Bronze Award to the Silver Award which we achieved just before Christmas last year. The last two years have been quite a journey with some projects making a significant difference to the church's own environment, while others less so. Nevertheless, they are all equally important in that they contribute to our growing understanding of nature and God's creation. The front garden has been completely transformed from a tangle of

overgrown shrubs, bind weed and marestail into an herbaceous border full of colour and plants which attract butterflies and other insects. In 2023 we saw our first hummingbird moth and last summer our first butterfly. This is notable as we are situated in the heart of a busy commercial centre with considerable noise and traffic pollution. However, despite the presence of numerous bees throughout the summer, our bug hotel appears to still have several vacant rooms to let. Hopefully, this summer will see greater numbers of insects and a far higher demand for





temporary accommodation. The land surrounding our car park now supports patio pots, bird feeders and a birdbox which saw blue tits nesting last summer. In addition, we have fitted two water butts, have two compost bins and recently added a coffee waste bin. The contents are free for anyone who wants to use them in their own gardens – spent coffee grounds act both as a fertilizer and a slug repellent!

The Silver Award reflects several other achievements. Have you noticed, for instance, that references to nature and God's creation are more frequent in our prayers and choice of hymns than previously? We are taking more note of national and international events such as Earth Hour, World Wildlife Day, International Day of Zero Waste, Earth Day and many others, as well as being involved in local litter picks. For the past three years we have supported Broadstone in Bloom's plant sales and added our own stalls, turning the event into a mini eco fair. Additional contributions have come from Dorset Wildlife Trust and Eco Churches Together in Broadstone. We also now have our own section of notice board within the coffee lounge and a recent feature is the celebration of nature through photographs taken by church members. The photographs will change each month and hopefully will reflect changes through the seasons.

Last November we overcame a considerable hurdle to our progress – the calculation of our carbon footprint. I am grateful to all members of the congregation who took part in the exercise. It was pleasing to discover that we have an average footprint that is lower than that for Broadstone but sadly was higher than that for the whole country. To coin a well-known educational phrase – “could do better”. You will be pleased to know, I'm sure, that we will be repeating the exercise this coming November so hopefully we will see a reduction in our carbon usage. To achieve the gold standard this is one of the activities we must repeat on an annual basis. At least we can confirm that our electricity is supplied from 100% renewable sources.



So what of the future? What further changes can we expect? We are looking to introduce a raised bed for the children to use, perhaps growing some vegetables or fruit such as strawberries, and if this does materialise then we may see the start of a community garden. After all, we already produce crab apples, albeit in very small quantities at present, but, as the tree matures, there should be sufficient to make crab apple jelly. If we really want to make a difference then there is one more thing that we, as a church, need to do and that is to become more politically active. If you don't think the council is doing enough to tackle the climate and environmental crisis then write to your local councillors. If you think the Government is failing to meet its targets and therefore letting us all down, then lobby your Member of Parliament. If you can do this then it will also significantly contribute to achieving the eco-church gold standard.

Finally, we would like to thank those who have helped us along this journey so far, but there is still a way to go and any ideas that can help us advance will be very much appreciated.



## Mini Eco Fair

Saturday 24th May

9.30 – 11.30am

**Broadstone Methodist Church frontage**

including Broadstone in Bloom Plant Sale  
Dorset Wildlife Trust

Broadstone Eco Churches Together  
Broadstone Neighbourhood Forum

**Free wildflower seeds**





# Holy Week Labyrinth

**Monday 14 April – Wednesday 16 April and  
Saturday 19 April  
10am – 12noon**

**Good Friday 18 April  
2 – 4pm**

## *Time to pause, pray and reflect during Holy Week*

A labyrinth follows one meandering path to the centre and can help with centring and calming our thoughts, enabling us to have a deeper awareness of the divine.

To help you with this there will be a large labyrinth to walk around, or if you would prefer, smaller individual ones where you can sit quietly with your thoughts.

There will also be opportunities to create your own labyrinths.

Reflect on the Holy Week narrative as we prepare for Easter Sunday or come and use the space for your own reflections and well-being. Drop in at any point during the times above.

*All ages are welcome in this space.*

# Agape Meal

**Maundy Thursday 17 April**

**7pm**

in the Coffee Lounge

# Good Friday Walk of Witness

**18 April**

**10am**

**from St John's North Reach extension to  
the front of the Methodist Church  
where a short service will be held outside**

# EASTER

**Sunday 20 April**

**10.30am**

**Service of Celebration  
including Holy Communion**

**Celebrant: Rev Karen James**





# A Busy Day for Broadstone Scouts

## Saturday 15 March

Signs were cleaned, cars washed, litter picked, cakes sold, and leaflets delivered.

Broadstone Methodist Church was pleased to be able to lend its frontage for the cake sale.

The overall total raised on the day (pending some match funding) was £1349! The cake sale itself raised £556.55.

Congratulations to Broadstone Scouts!

For information about Broadstone Scouts visit [www.broadstonescouts.org](http://www.broadstonescouts.org)



# Anybody for Table Tennis?

Broadstone Methodist Church now has a full sized table tennis table.

Please contact Mike Brooke via [mikebrooke1947@googlemail.com](mailto:mikebrooke1947@googlemail.com) if you would be interested in forming a regular club or playing on an occasional basis.



## Music in Broadstone

### Concerts by Poole Society for Young Musicians

#### Summer Sonatas

with Lewis Lee (violin) and Maria Del Mar Umbert Kimura (piano)

**Sunday 8 June 2025 at 7pm**

**United Reformed Church BH18 9AB**

*Interval refreshments*

#### Afternoon Tea Concert

**Sunday 6 July 2025 at 4pm**

**St John the Baptist Church BH18 8AQ**

A selection of Popular classical music solos, chamber music and group performances by our talented young musicians

A perfect way to spend a summer afternoon, accompanied by delicious cake!

*As one of our annual highlights, advance booking is essential*

### The Broadstone Choir

#### Summer Concert

Music from the Last Night of the Proms (with plenty of audience participation!)

Karl Jenkins' *Better is Peace* and

*Te Deum* by Dorset composer Christopher Wood

**Sunday 13 July at 7.30pm**

**Broadstone Methodist Church BH18 8DP**

Rehearsals start on Tuesday 22 April

*We always welcome new singers*

For further information please email [Broadstonechoir@gmail.com](mailto:Broadstonechoir@gmail.com)

#### Christmas Concert

**Sunday 14 December**

**Broadstone Methodist Church**

# ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



## JUNIOR CHURCH

Children are welcome to our Sunday morning services.

They join in the first part of the service and then go out to their own sessions where they take part in activities related to a Bible passage.

## WENDY HOUSE

Our popular Wendy House toddler group (for babies and toddlers up to 3+ and their parent or carer) meets every Thursday in term time from 10am to 11.30am



Story Time

## THIRSTY THURSDAY

For school age children with a parent or carer, every Thursday in term time, after school until 4.15pm.

*Refreshments, football, crafts, Godly play, and recently, bird feeding and bulb planting.*



Meets once during each school holiday

All ages welcome with an accompanying parent or carer

The next is on **Thursday 10 April 2025**  
and then on **Thursdays 29 May and 24 July**

**10am to 12.30pm** Light lunch included

Do come and join us at the Church for crafts and related activities

For Wendy House, Thirsty Thursday, and Messy Church, please enter by the back entrance of the Church from the car park. For the other events please use either entrance.



# SUNDAY WORSHIP

Weekly at 10.30am

(Holy Communion as announced)

with Junior Church and  
Crèche at the same time

All are welcome

Tea and Coffee served after the Service

We also offer  
Evening Worship  
on Zoom

or a

Written and  
Recorded Service  
each week

Contact the Church Office for details

Tel: 01202 600696

Email: [methodistchurch1@btinternet.com](mailto:methodistchurch1@btinternet.com)

Broadstone Methodist Church

## COFFEE LOUNGE

for Fellowship and Refreshments

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Friday and Saturday each week**  
apart from Bank Holidays

**10.00am–12.00 noon**

We look forward to seeing you and enjoying  
chatting over a cuppa!



**Sunday 18 May 2025  
4.30pm**

**Led by Marilyn Greenaway  
and Joan Jackson**

## Badminton Group

Mondays from 7.30–9.30pm  
in the Bradbury Hall

## Knit & Natter

Mondays 10.00am – 12 noon  
in the Sanctuary

## STEPPING STONES DROP-IN

Second Friday of every month  
2.30 – 4pm  
in the Coffee Lounge

The next issue of



is planned to be published on  
**Sunday 7 September 2025**

Articles, photographs and other contributions  
should be submitted to the editors by

**Sunday 3 August 2025**

## CARERS' GROUP

Second Thursday of every month  
2.00 – 4pm  
in the Coffee Lounge



